


TREATISE

ON

BRITISH TACTICS:

BEING

AN ILLUSTRATION

OF THE

MOST ESSENTIAL MOVEMENTS,

PREScribed FOR THE

ARMY,

BY

HIS MAJESTY'S REGULATIONS.

WITH

A SERIES OF DIAGRAMS.

By A. JAMES, Capt. 67th Regt.

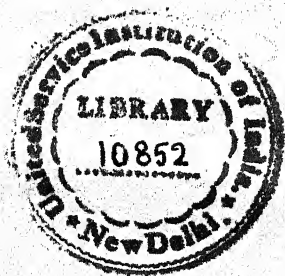
AUTHOR OF THE NINETEEN MOVEMENTS, &c. LATELY PUBLISHED.

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TO



HIS EXCELLENCY

Sir DAVID DUNDAS, K. B.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF

ALL HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES,

Sc Sc Sc

THIS VOLUME,



ELUCIDATING

THE MOST ESSENTIAL MOVEMENTS OF THE

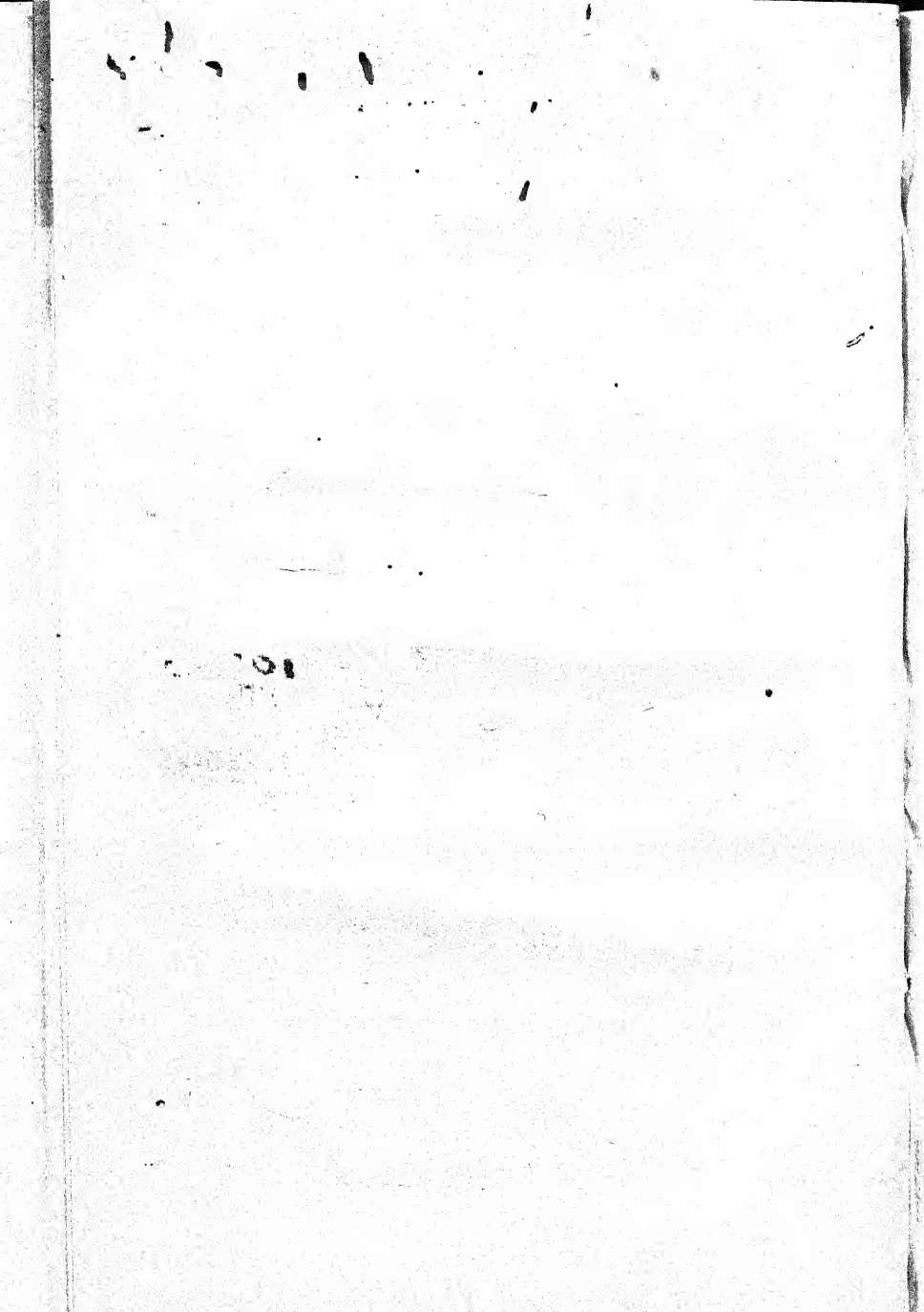
BRITISH SYSTEM,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT HUMBLE

SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.



OLD COLLECTION

Not to be taken out

P R E F A C E.

IN offering this Volume to the Army, it is proper to observe, that THE RULES AND REGULATIONS have been strictly adhered to in every particular. Nor has this rigid and faithful adherence proceeded more from a sense of duty, than from a firm, honest conviction of the superior excellence, justness, and simplicity of the principles on which that system has been erected.

It is hardly necessary to state that, agreeably to the Prospectus, care has been taken to select those Movements principally which were deemed most essential, and which had not been previously elucidated in *the Nineteen Manœuvres*, lately published at this Office.

To those Manœuvres occasional reference has been made; for being, in fact, parts of

one and the same System, bearing a close and relative affinity to each other, such reference became unavoidable. Adverting to this circumstance, it has been deemed eligible to print the present Volume in a form that will admit of the two Books being bound together.

I have exerted my best endeavors to render the present Work clear, simple, and perspicuous. And I sincerely trust it may prove a considerable aid to junior classes of Officers, (the future hope of British India,) who, actuated by motives of honor, and a high sense of military duty, feel the laudable ambition of becoming rightly grounded in the elementary and fundamental principles of their profession, as the surest and only method of effectually qualifying themselves for the progressive situations at which, in the course of service, they must necessarily arrive.

I have sedulously endeavored to clear the way of difficulties, by giving the precise max-

ims of General Dundas, in that methodical and explicit manner, as appeared best calculated to divest every Movement of all abstruseness. Nor have I occasionally shrunk from the task of briefly animadverting on questionable points, in order, as far as seemed consistent with my plan, to remove any doubt that might exist.

In appreciating the utility of an Essay, avowedly written to facilitate the study of Tactics to the junior ranks,—old experienced Officers will do the justice to be persuaded that the idle vanity of dictating to my superiors could not enter into my views, and is really the last fault that can, with propriety, be imputed to me. To Officers of long standing this volume may be of use, as an occasional remembrancer, in the routine of field duty;—beyond that point it does not aspire. But as it is likely to become useful to the junior classes, in proportion as it is countenanced by Officers of rank, whose suffrage must necessarily influence public opinion, and give weight to a

Work of this nature, I trust this countenance, as far as may be deemed reasonable, will not be withheld.

Indeed from the flattering reception which my *Nineteen Movements* have experienced, and for which I cannot omit this public opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments, the following Treatise is submitted under the full confidence, that it may prove equally acceptable.

For altho' the old practical Officer is not likely to derive any material benefit from the illustration of a System, every part of which a long and active career must have rendered familiar to his apprehension, I nevertheless fully calculate upon the honor of his support, under the decided impression that, among all ranks of the Indian Army, *the good of the Service* has ever been a conspicuous, directive, and leading principle.

A. J.

Minor Office,

August, 1811.

MOVEMENTS

OF

I N F A N T R Y,

ACCORDING TO

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

No. 1.

The Battalion Column of Companies halted, diminishes its front.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
* FORM COLUMN OF SUBDIVISIONS.	Left subdivisions, inwards face. 2. March. Halt, front—Dress.

* The right is in front.

Vide Plate 1. Fig. 1.

S: 158.



1st MOVEMENT.

Diminishing the Front of an open Column, halted.

FORM COLUMN OF SUBDIVISIONS.

At this cautionary command, covering sergeants fall back, and accurately mark the point where the left flank of the doubling subdivision is to be placed; dividing justly the distance existing between the companies. Each platoon officer, advancing one step, and facing his platoon, instantly orders, *Left subdivision, inwards Face*; on which the named subdivision faces to the right, and disengages its two head files to the rear, (the battalion is supposed two deep)—*2. March*. Each subdivision marches round and beyond the serjeant,

and, as soon as the rear file has passed him, the officer orders *Halt front, Dress up*; upon which the serjeant dresses the subdivision: the officer places himself on the pivot flank of the right subdivision; the covering serjeant on the pivot of the left.

The colors double up, on their proper ground, with the left subdivision of the right centre company.

Should a further diminution of front be necessary, the reduction would be performed on the same principle, substituting *section* for *subdivision*.

REMARKS.

Diminishing a column left in front, would be effected in the same manner; except that the right subdivisions would double up behind the left.

No. 2.

*The Column of Subdivisions, halted,
increases its front.*

* COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
* FORM COMPANIES.	Left oblique, 2. March. Forward. Halt, Dress.

* The right is in front.

Vide Plate 1. Fig. 2.

2d MOVEMENT.

Increase the front of Column, halted.

FORM COMPANIES.

At this caution, platoon officers, turning round, instantly give the word *Rear Subdivision, Left oblique, 2. March*; the moment the right flank of the obliquing subdivision has cleared the left flank of the standing one, *Forward* is ordered; and when it comes up with it, *Halt Dress*. The dressing is quickly effected; each officer resumes his proper pivot, and is again covered by his serjeant.

The colors oblique with the left subdivision of the right centre company.

REMARKS.

"Should a column be retiring with the rear rank leading, the divisions will double as already prescribed, so as to preserve the subdivisions or sections in their natural order for forming up."—Dundas, sec. 90.

For instance, a column of companies, right in front, retires, without countermarching, by simply going to the right about. Officers do not shift, but merely step up in the leading rank, so as to maintain the covering, distance, &c. If in this retreat, it becomes necessary to break into subdivisions,—the commanding officer would give the cautionary command—and platoon officers would immediately order, *Right Subdivision* (i. e. the proper right subdivision) *Mark Time, Quick Oblique—Forward*; on which that subdivision would oblique to the right, and double up in rear of the proper left which continues its regular march. And when the column was directed to half front, the subdivisions would be in their natural order, ready to wheel into line.

TO THE MILITARY READER.

It is a standing maxim positively enjoined by the Regulations, that in diminishing the front of a column, whether halted or in motion, the subdivision on the *reverse* flank shall be that behind which the other subdivision, or section, is to

double. By this means the regular order is maintained, and the column is at all times in its proper order.

The propriety of this maxim has been questioned; and it has been asserted by some professional writers, that the principle itself on which this method is founded, must be reputed vicious and irregular. It has been further maintained that moving the *pivot* subdivisions is not merely an unmilitary practice, liable to many serious inconveniences, but that it is unquestionably productive of disorder, and must needs shake the column, and derange the march.

This is not the only objection urged by captious ingenuity against British Tactics. But considering how little such objections are calculated to impeach the solid judgment, enlightened experience and discriminating acumen, which no Tactician ever possessed in a more eminent degree than the Founder of the British System, it certainly is fortunate for the discipline, efficiency and honor of His Majesty's arms, that the Royal sanction has been affixed to the Regulations.

Were not our eccentricities repressed by the strong hand of Authority, instead of regular uniform system, founded on simple and just principles, which among other essential circumstances discountenance all *deviations*, and require "*order and mutual effort to be held sacred*," we should in the course of a few years retrograde at a rapid pace into an inextricable maze of heterogeneous fancy evolutions, which, discarding regular established maxims, would effectually destroy all combined operations, and very soon preclude the possibility of any two regiments acting together!

After this short digression, emanating however from the main object of this publication, viz. *the Illustration of British Tactics on British Principles*, the professional reader will smile to learn how it has been proposed to rectify, in part, this "*vicious movement*." The column of subdivisions marching right in front is to form divisions, by *Right Subdivision Halt. Right about face. Left Oblique. Quick March*—(and when it comes up with the pivot subdivision which has continued its march,) *Halt Front, March!*

Other methods have been suggested equally ingenious, but possibly too anomalous to interest the intelligent officer. That the diminution and increase of column, was by General Dundas considered a most important operation is sufficiently manifest, from the observations which he has thought necessary to make on that movement. This profound writer, was not only aware of the importance, but also of the inherent difficulties, and insurmountable objections which in every point of view attended the evolution in question. For easy as it may appear, we really know not a single manœuvre more essential, more embarrassed, or so intrinsically arduous.

We are fortified in asserting, from a general view of the subject as treated by the most approved military writers, that no mode has yet been devised of performing this movement, that is not liable to some exception. But if the method prescribed by the Regulations is the least exceptionable, all occasion for cavil falls to the ground.

"In diminishing or increasing the front of the column in march, the pivot division is the one that quits its direction,
"the exactness of pivots after such operation will appear to be

"interrupted; but this is of no consequence, and instantly regained in a column of MARCH; it can hardly ever take place in a column of MANŒUVRE, which has entered a line on which it is to form."—Dundas, page 113.

This remark is at once pertinent and satisfactory: and as the operation is explicitly restricted to a column of march and not regularly applicable to a column of manœuvre, the occasional dislocation of the pivot division can produce no real inconvenience.

But it may be observed perhaps, that General Dundas himself applies this very operation to the 8th Review Movement. Yes—and with the greatest propriety. For it can hardly be necessary to suggest that the evident object of this formal introduction, was to familiarize battalions to an operation, which, with all its unavoidable embarrassments, is of the highest importance, and consequently cannot be too much or too regularly practised.

Concurring implicitly in the propriety of the prescribed method, it does not appear that any alteration can be required. If on mature consideration, it had occurred to General Dundas as absolutely necessary that the pivot division should on no account be dislocated, even in a column of march, is it not obvious that he could have conducted that evolution on another principle, consistently with his own maxims? Instead of the present method, for instance, of breaking into subdivision, it would have been extremely easy to have ordered *Right Subdivision, Left Oblique, 2. March—Ordinary*. By this means the pivot division would not be moved. And when neces-

sary to form divisions, it could with equal facility have been effected by *Right Subdivision, Right Turn, 2. March*; upon which each right subdivision would have marched strait out, and, the instant it had thus cleared the right flank of the advancing pivot division, *Halt Front*, would have been given, which would have brought it precisely in a line with the other subdivision, then *Ordinary*. But it does not strike us that even this would have been an improvement upon the mode prescribed by Authority.

No 3.

*Passage of a Bridge, or Defile,
from Line,*

To the Front, and before the Centre.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caption.	Words of Command	
TWO CENTRE SUBDIVISIONS STAND FAST. REMAINING COMPANIES, BY SUBDIVISIONS, ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH.....	Halt dress.
	Q. MARCH.....	Left shoulders forward— (by officers of the right wing) Right shoulders forward— (by officers of the left wing, as they respectively arrive within a few paces of the ground where the centre subdivisions stood.)
	HALT	
FORM LINE ON THE TWO CENTRE SUBDIVISIONS.....	Q. MARCH.....	Left shoulders forward— (by officers of the right wing.) Right shoulder: forward— (by officers of the left wing.) * Halt, left wheel. Halt, dress—(by officers of the right wing.) Halt, right wheel. Halt, dress—(by officers of the left wing.)

* This wheel brings the subdivisions into the new alignment.

Vide Plate 1. Fig. 3.

3d MOVEMENT.

Passage of a Bridge, &c.

REMAINING COMPANIES, BY SUBDIVISIONS, ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

At this caution the officers step out and place themselves one pace before the centre of that subdivision which is to become the leading one: the pivot men of each subdivision *face*, right wing pivots to the left, left wing pivots to the right: covering serjeants of No. 4 and No. 5 run back, and respectively mark the point where the reverse flank of their rear subdivision, will rest, on completing the wheel. The supernumerary rank, as usual in all wheels, closes up within two paces of the rear rank. Officers of No. 4 and No. 5 remain steady, ready to take the pivot flank of their leading subdivision on the next word of command.

Q. MARCH.

The subdivisions, except the two centre ones, between whom the colors remain posted, wheel back; right wing on their right; left wing on their left.

Right wing officers inclining to the right of their leading subdivision, which is now the pivot, give *Halt Dress* for both subdivisions; nor is the covering serjeant, who takes the pivot of the rear subdivision, to repeat the word.

Left wing officers *Halt Dress* precisely in the same manner; taking post on the left of their respective leading subdivision.

Q. MARCH.

The double column steps off, nor must the centre subdivisions await a single moment for the arrival of the subdivisions immediately in their rear, as directed in Russell and others. At the word Q. MARCH, the whole step off together. Officers of the right wing, advertising to the gyrometer laid down in a former publication* for the *Moveable Wheel*, will each

* Vide James's Nineteen Movements, Appendix, p. 11, where a Table is offered.

timously order *Left Shoulders Forward*, according to the strength of his division.—Officers of the left wing give *Right Shoulders Forward*; both left and right wing officers preserving in their own person the regular pace, as strictly enjoined by the Regulations, and following accurately the centre or leading subdivisions, who are conducted by the serjeant director between the colors.

HALT.

The whole halt firmly, bringing up the rear foot with the advanced one, so as to complete the step.

FORM LINE ON THE TWO CENTRE SUBDIVISIONS.

The centre subdivisions are critically dressed; and points of formation instantly prepared.

Q. MARCH.

Each right wing officer, as he arrives at such distance from the posted left subdivision of No. 4, as will enable him to perform his wheel so as just to clear the supernumerary rank of the said subdivision, will give *Left Shoulders*

Forward, and instantly shift, by the rear, to his left flank. He then proceeds close by the rear of the formed line, and when he reaches his point in the alignment, he orders *Halt—Left Wheel. Halt Dress.* The officer dresses both subdivisions; and gives *Eyes Front*,

Officers of the left wing go precisely thro' the same operation, substituting *left* for *right*, and *right* for *left*.

REMARKS.

It must be carefully remembered that the leaders who are to conduct the pivot flank of the second subdivisions, or second or other sections, place themselves there, *when the wheel is completed*, and not before. The officer is on the pivot flank of the leading subdivision, or section; his covering serjeant on the flank of the second subdivision, or second section; and officers, or non-commissioned officers, on the flank of the others, after wheeling into column.

In regard to the above operation, the reader should be apprised that *central* columns are not considered by the Regulations as generally preferable. On the contrary, such central columns are attended with inconveniences; and when a positive position is not to be occupied immediately after passing a defile, the march in column from either flank is recommended: for from that order every possible after situation is accurately and easily taken up.

The battalion is also permitted to pass a bridge in a *close column* of any given front, on the division which is opposite, and extend or deploy as may be required, after passing.

If the defile should gradually narrow, the *double column* of subdivisions may be thrown into sections; and should a further reduction become necessary, the sections would *inwards turn*, and the whole pass quick in double order of files.

After entirely clearing the defile if it be required to form line immediately to the front, the double order of files might *Halt Front*: the wings would thus face outwards, and stand back to back: the two centre companies would wheel up the quarter circle, No. 4 to the left, No. 5 to the right; the remaining divisions would be thrown into echelon, by wheeling right wing companies four paces to the left, left wing companies four paces to the right; and form on the centre divisions.

Or, the whole of the companies might wheel up, close up to the centre divisions, and deploy upon them.

No. 4.

*A Battalion formed in Line, passes
a Defile, before the right Flank.*

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
SUBDIVISIONS, ON THE LEFT BACK- WARDS, WHEEL.	Q. MARCH	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
	Q. MARCH	<i>Right shoulders forward.</i>
	HALT.	

4th MOVEMENT.

Passage of a Defile before the right Flank.

SUBDIVISIONS ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

Q. MARCH.

The battalion breaks into open column of divisions, subdivisions, or sections, according to the breadth of the defile, which must always be passed *quick*, and *on the greatest possible front*. The right subdivision of grenadiers, being already faced to the defile, is cautioned not to wheel.

Q. MARCH.

The column steps off quick—and *Right Shoulders Forward* is timously given—pivot flanks preserving most rigidly the regular pace;

and the reverse flank alertly, and without hurry, conforming thereto.

HALT.

The defile being cleared, the column is halted.

The march may be continued, on the present, or an increased front. Or a line formed, as may be required.

No. 5.

*A Battalion formed in Line, passes
a Defile, in rear of its centre.*

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
WHEEL BACK BY SUBDIVISIONS; — RIGHT WING ON THE LEFT; LEFT WING ON THE RIGHT.	Q. MARCH.	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
SUBDIVISIONS WILL MARCH SUCCESSIVELY TO THE REAR, FROM EACH FLANK, AND PASS THE DEFILE IN DOUBLE COLUMN. Q. MARCH,		<i>Left shoulders forward —</i> <i>(by officers of right wing.)</i> <i>Right shoulders forward —</i> <i>(by officers of left wing.)</i> AND <i>* Right shoulders forward —</i> <i>(by officers of right wing.)</i> <i>Left shoulders forward —</i> <i>(by officers of left wing.)</i>

* This command wheels the subdivisions into the defile.

Vide Plate 1. Fig. 5.

*This movement should be made by
forming the column passing over the
defile in double column.*

5th MOVEMENT.

Passage of a Defile in rear of the centre.

WHEEL BACK BY SUBDIVISIONS;—RIGHT WING ON THE LEFT; LEFT WING ON THE RIGHT.

Platoon officers at this caution, place themselves in front of that subdivision which is to become the leading one. Covering sergeants in rear of the other, ready to take post on the pivot flank. The pivots face.

Q. MARCH.

At this command wings wheel back as ordered. Officers and coverers of the right wing are on the left; Officers and coverers of the left wing on the right, such being respectively their proper pivot. *Halt Dress* is given.

Colors proceed as usual; King's with the right, Regimental with the left wing.

SUBDIVISIONS WILL MARCH SUCCESSIVELY TO THE REAR FROM EACH FLANK, AND PASS THE DEFILE IN DOUBLE COLUMN.

Q. MARCH.

Officers of the right wing, successively, from grenadiers to No. 4, order *Left Shoulders Forward*;—*Forward*;—and, on the principle of the moveable pivot, make each a half wheel, marching accurately along the rear, so as just to clear the supernumerary rank; officers of the left wing perform precisely the same operation, with *Right Shoulders Forward*;—*Forward*.

If the march has been regular, the leading divisions of wings will arrive in rear of the centre, precisely at the same time; and the officers timously order—*Shoulders Forward*. Right wing, *right shoulders*: left wing, *left shoulders*.

The wings thus wheeling inwards together, pass in double column the bridge or defile. Officers are on the outward flanks of their respective divisions.

REMARKS.

After passing the defile, subsequent formations must be determined according to circumstances and the views of the commander. The march may be prolonged in the same, or any other order. OR, the line may be formed to the present front, by passing the wings thro' each other, closing to the head of column, and deploying on the rear division. OR, the line may be formed to the original front, by wheeling back the wings—right wing by subdivisions on the right, left wing on the left: then the two centre companies would be wheeled up the quarter circle so as to fix them in the new alignment; the other companies would wheel up four paces into echelon, and form on the centre division.

By this simple and easy method of forming line to the original front, the unnecessary *inversion* into which Captain Russell throws the battalion, is completely obviated: and in case of an unexpected attack on the rear of your column, this method would not only ensure more regularity to your future operations, but would be performed in much less time, and consequently enable you to oppose the attack with more celerity.

Besides these considerations which, in a military point of view, are important, by thus forming your line regularly as well as quickly, any other position might be taken with perfect ease, and without that confusion, which, but too generally attends all inversions; unless, indeed, regiments have been previously much practised in them.

No. 6.

A Column of Divisions successively marches off, by wheeling from a flank of the Battalion formed in Line, in a direction towards the other flank.

If the Movement is made along the Front.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES
Caution.	Words of Command	
THE BATTALION WILL MARCH OFF SUCCESSIVELY BY DIVISIONS, FROM THE LEFT TO THE RIGHT FLANK CLOSE ALONG THE FRONT.....	MARCH.....	Light company, Right wheel, Halt, dress. March. (Do. by 8. 7. to Grenadiers in succession).

Vide Plate 2. Fig. 6.

6th MOVEMENT.

*March in Column from one flank
to the other.*

THE BATTALION WILL MARCH OFF SUCCESSIVELY BY DIVISIONS FROM THE LEFT, &c. &c.

MARCH.

Light company officer, instantly orders, *L. Company Right Wheel. 2. March. Halt Dress. March.* Left being in front the right is the pivot. The light company marches off close along the front of the battalion; and the moment it passes the right flank of No. 8, that division wheels up precisely in the same manner, and follows the light company at the regular distance. All the other divisions, successively, perform the same operation.

REMARKS.

If the new direction should be oblique, making a small angle with the line, the Regulations direct that each division shall move forward quick and successively to that direction, as its turn comes, before it commences its wheel, so as not to lose its distance.

This caution should be scrupulously attended to: for, in this double operation, unless officers time the moving up accurately, distances will be encreased, and the whole column lengthened out: a fault sedulously to be guarded against, and which can never be excused. When the column has cleared the ground on which it stood, it may continue its march, or take any new direction that may be required. Or, it may wheel into line facing its original rear. Or, the right wing may be brought up to the front as in the Sixth Review Movement, and a position assumed parallel to the original direction.

N. B. Should circumstances render it proper to make the foregoing movement from right to left, the same operation would take place, substituting *left* for *right*, and the grenadiers would commence the march.

If the Movement is made close along the rear.

In that case it is enjoined that the leading flank division shall wheel three-fourths of the circle: and every other division half the circle: so as to have only a quarter to wheel, when marching off in column, the preceding division arrives at its standing pivot.

HOWEVER, it should be remembered that altho' the Regulations authorise, they do not absolutely prescribe the above mode for rear marches, which is heavy and awkward. In order to obviate so much unnecessary wheeling, the Regulations permit these movements to be made by the *filing* of divisions; and, indeed, this permission extends to front as well as rear marches. This method is undoubtedly more quick and simple, and is very generally practised, particularly in marching to the rear.

If the march is **ALONG THE FRONT FROM RIGHT TO LEFT**, and to be made by **FILING**, the grenadier captain orders *Right Face. Leading File Left Wheel. 2. March*; and allows his serjeant to lead straight out, until he has gained a distance equal to the front of the company, he then gives *Halt Front. March*—and, taking post on the left, proceeds steadily along the line. Each officer does the same successively from right to left, taking particular care to give *right face* the instant the preceding division has passed him. The whole being now in column, right in front, any after position may be taken according to circumstances.

If the march is along the *rear* from right or left, the grenadiers *face to the left*, disengaging their head files to the rear—and *quick march* leading out to the rear, in a perpendicular direction the exact length of the company; when, as before, the captain orders *Halt, Front. March*, and takes post on the left. Every division successively does the same from No. 1, to light company, until the whole are in column.

It is to be remembered that in marches made in this manner, along the front, the divisions face outwards, or towards

the moving flank of the battalion, and disengage their head to the front. On the other hand, in marches along the rear, they face inwards, or towards the standing flank, disengaging their head to the rear. This method is particularly useful when the column moves to the rear.

March of the Battalion in File.

This is an operation most carefully to be avoided where it can possibly be dispensed with: it is only enjoined for the purpose of countermarching, or of closing or opening an interval in line.* But as it may sometimes become unavoidably necessary in passing defiles, which will not admit of even a column of sections—a battalion should therefore be much practised in file marching, until it can advance in that manner without opening out, or losing the step and covering.

At the word RIGHT FACE, the whole battalion faces accurately to the right. Officers commanding divisions step out one pace, (which they invariably do whenever more than one company is to march in file) and are replaced by their serjeants. Officers, being thus out of the line, should be attentive not only to the step but also to their covering, thus becoming an aid for the perpendicular march of the battalion. Supernumerary rank closes up: colors face, keeping their place in line.

* Vide James's 11th Review Movement, page 82.

No. 7.

A Battalion standing on narrow ground, may sometimes be obliged to March in File, in order to form Open Column from its leading Flank.

If before the right Flank.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
GRENADIERS STAND FAST--REMAINING COMPANIES.....	Right, Face.	No. 1. <i>Halt. front. March.</i> No. 2. do. (to left company inclusive.)
	MARCH.	

Vide Plate 2. Fig. 7.

7th MOVEMENT.

Forming Column before the right Flank.

GRENADIERS STAND FAST—REMAINING COMPANIES,

RIGHT FACE.

As the grenadiers are to move forward they of course do not face; the officer shifts smartly to his left, by the rear; and an object is given for his direction.

The other companies face as ordered; captains step out one pace, and are replaced by their coverers; heads of divisions must not here be disengaged, as the whole march in file by battalion.

MARCH.

The grenadiers step off, marching with the utmost precision on the point de vue. The

captain of No. 1 allows his division to proceed, led by the serjeant in ordinary time, and the instant his rear file comes up in the line of pivots he gives *Halt Front. March*:—and taking post on his left flank, is attentive to his distance and covering. Every other captain, successively, does the same;—halting in his own person as he reaches the pivot flank of the column, and allowing his company to proceed until the *Halt Front* is proper.

TO THE MILITARY READER.

In conformity to that section of the Regulations which details the above movement, the *Halt, Front—March*, have been retained. But on reference to other sections of the Regulations relative to the same operation, and indeed on the principles generally laid down on that head by General Dundas, we deem it proper to submit whether *left turn* might not be more applicable.

In the first place it is an established maxim, from which no deviation is ever permitted, that,

“The FILE MARCHING, or countermarching of a battalion
“or greater body, will be made in ORDINARY time. Of smaller
“divisions, in general, in quick time.”—Sec. 96.

* as in the P. M. as above. after the Column
is put in Motion the Companies will be in such

And secondly it is enjoined, Sec. 31. that "TURNING on the march, in order to continue it, though inaccurate and improper for a large body, is necessary when companies, or their divisions, ARE MOVING IN FILE, and that without halting, it is eligible to make them MOVE IN FRONT; or when moving in front, it is proper without halting to make them move in file."

From these authorities we must object to the battalion's moving *quick* in file, as laid down by Russell, and others, in elucidation of this operation. The *ordinary* time, as prescribed by the Regulations, has been here observed. But if the filing be performed in ordinary time, then it inevitably follows that *Halt Front, March* cannot be applied; otherwise the distance between divisions must be lost. For whilst the filing division has marched a space equal to its front, so as to gain the column, the preceding division already marching in column has also gained a space equal to its front; consequently *left turn* becomes absolutely necessary, otherwise at least three paces will be lost by every division if the *Halt Front, March* be retained; which, in a column of ten companies, would lead to a considerable extension.

And as *turning* is not merely allowed, but really prescribed by the Regulations, and applies particularly to the movement in question, there can perhaps be no valid objection to its adoption.

It is merely necessary further to observe that this operation is only calculated for very narrow ground, which prevents the battalion breaking into column: for all file marchings of great bodies are *unmilitary*.

No. 8.

The Battalion standing on narrow ground, marches in file to form open column, behind the right flank.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
BATTALION.....	RIGHT, FACE.	
	MARCH.....	<i>Grenadiers.</i>
		<i>Right countermarch.</i>
		<i>Halt front.</i>
		<i>March.</i>
		(Do. by every other division successively.)

Vide Plate 2. Fig. 8.

8th MOVEMENT.

*Open Column behind the right
Flank.*

BATTALION. RIGHT FACE.

The whole face to the right. Officers, as already explained, step out. Colors remain in the line.

MARCH.

Captain of grenadiers, instantly gives *Right Countermarch*, the company countermarches on its own ground; and the moment the countermarch is effected, the officer gives *Halt Front, March*,—and taking post on the left, steadily proceeds on the prepared object, or according to such direction as may be announced,

In the mean time the battalion marches at the regular pace, and each company successively, when it arrives on the ground that was occupied by the grenadiers, performs the same operation. Commanding officers of companies do not countermarch with their divisions; but, correctly halting on the pivot flank of column, are ready to *Halt, Front,—and March*, their companies.

Colors countermarch with the right centre division, and take their place in column.

No. 9.

The Battalion standing on narrow ground, marches in file to form open column before any central point.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMAND BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
THE BATTALION WILL COUNTER-MARCH SUCCESSIVELY BY COMPANIES FROM THE RIGHT, AND FORM OPEN COLUMN IN FRONT OF THE LEFT CENTRE DIVISION, WHICH WILL STAND FAST.	RIGHT, FACE, MARCH.	Grenadiers, Left countermarch, (and, when opposite No. 5.) Right countermarch Halt, front — March. No. 1, 2, 3, 4, do. No. 5, March. No. 6, Halt, front, March No. 7, 8 and Light Company, do.
LEFT WING.	MARCH.	

Vide Plate 2. Fig. 9.

9th MOVEMENT.

Open Column before the left centre Company.

THE BATTALION WILL COUNTERMARCH BY COMPANIES SUCCESSIVELY, &c.

RIGHT FACE.

The whole, except the left centre division, face to the right, and officers step out as usual.

MARCH.

The grenadier officer instantly gives *Left Countermarch*, and as soon as he brings his leading file opposite the left hand man of the company on which the formation is to be made, he orders *Right Countermarch*; remaining at that point, which is to be the pivot; and thence, the moment his company has filed opposite

No. 5, he gives *Halt Front, March*.—No. 1 to No. 4 inclusive, have precisely the same operation individually to perform ; and the officers are careful to maintain their distance and covering;—the grenadier captain marching most steadily on the given point.—When No. 4 has taken that step which establishes the just distance, No. 5, receives the word *March* from its officer, who has timely shifted to his left. As No. 5 gets the word *March*, the remainder of the left wing will receive from a mounted officer MARCH ; upon which those companies, without disengaging their heads, file straight into column ; and each officer from the pivot flank will successively *Halt Front—* and *March* his division.

REMARKS.

Should it be required to form the column on the light company, in lieu of a central one, the same operation would take place, with this exception, that every company, but the light company, would have to countermarch first to the left, then to the right, as before explained for divisions of the right wing.

No. 10.

The Battalion standing on narrow ground, marches in file to form open column behind any central division or the left flank.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
THE BATTALION WILL COUNTER-MARCH BY COMPANIES SUCCESSIVELY FROM THE RIGHT, AND FORM OPEN COLUMN IN REAR OF NO. 8 ...	MARCH.	<p>* No. 8. <i>Right countermarch.</i> <i>2. March.</i> <i>Halt, front—Dress.</i></p> <p><i>Grenadiers—Right countermarch—and (when in front of No. 8, which has now countermarched) Halt front. March.</i> <i>No. 1 to 7 do.</i> <i>No. 8, March.</i> <i>Light company 2. March</i> <i>Right countermarch.</i> <i>Halt, front—March.</i></p>

* Or, No. 8 may stand fast, and countermarch on its own ground when it comes to its turn.

Vide Plate 2. Fig. 10.

10th MOVEMENT.

Open Column behind No. 8 Company.

THE BATTALION WILL COUNTERMARCH BY
COMPANIES SUCCESSIVELY, &c.

RIGHT, FACE.

The whole, without exception, face to the right. And the * officer of the company to be formed on, immediately countermarches his company to the right, and having dressed it, takes post on the left.

MARCH.

At this command the whole remain perfectly steady, except the grenadiers, who receive from

* Or the officer may stand fast and countermarch his company when it comes to his turn;—the above is the best method.

their officer, *Right Countermarch*.—No. 1, takes up the same operation, and so in succession. When the grenadier officer arrives at the left of the company to be formed on, (supposing that company has countermarched) he halts in his own person, and allows his division to proceed until the rear file comes up, when he orders *Halt, Front. March*.—No. 1, and the other companies do the same; and as soon as No. 7 has gained its due distance, No. 8 will receive *March*. Upon which the captain of the light company, orders *2. March. Right Countermarch. Halt, Front. March*; and the column is now complete.

REMARKS.

There is nothing complicated in the foregoing operations; but the cumbrous filing by which they are performed should be as generally and strictly avoided as circumstances will admit. These filings (tho' they sometimes become indispensable) are obviously discountenanced by his Majesty's Regulations, which declare, that "*this method of forming open column should only be used in narrow grounds, and in particular situations that require it; as in the passing of a bridge or defile; or where the battalion stands in so confined a space as not to allow room for the wheeling of divisions.*"—The difficulties at all times of moving a large body in file, and the constant and unavoidable checks given to the

"equality and justness of the march, by the divisions successively quitting the line, make it impossible in the above cases, with due accuracy, to take up the proper distances; and therefore whenever the open column is to be formed from battalion and line, it ought to be done, if possible, by the WHEELING of COMPANIES, SUBDIVISIONS or SECTIONS."—Dundas, Sec. 96.

After this explicit authoritative observation, it may be permitted to offer a few suggestions, calculated to remove, in part, the evil complained of. If the battalion in line, standing on narrow ground, be required for instance to form an open column before any central point or the left flank, from the right, as detailed page 38, (of this volume) then instead of facing to the right, countermarching to the left, and again to the right, &c. as enjoined,—the company to be formed on would, as usual, stand fast; the divisions on its right would face *to the left*;—grenadiers would disengage their head files to the front; march steadily along the battalion; and when opposite the company on which the column was to form, *right turn forward*: each company on the right of the posted division would necessarily do the same.—The companies on its left would, as already directed, face *to the right*, file into column, and *left turn, forward*.

By this method, which is submitted for consideration, much filing and countermarching might be avoided. It must not be imagined that there is any thing in this mode incompatible with the principles laid down by authority;—far from it,—it flows directly from a close application of those principles; and on that ground only we have presumed to refer it to the judgment of more experienced officers.

No. 11.

*Countermarch of the Battalion, on
its centre, by Companies or Sub-
divisions.*

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
THE BATTALION WILL COUNTER- MARCH BY COM- PANIES, ON ITS CENTRE.....		No. 4 on your centre, to the right, half wheel 2. March. Halt, dress. OR, Right, face. Right countermarch. 2. March Halt, front. Dress.
RIGHT WING.....	RIGHT ABOUT, FACE	
COMPANIES TO THE RIGHT WHEEL...	Q, MARCH.....	Halt, dress.
	MARCH.	Halt. Right wheel. Halt, front. Dress, (by officers of right wing) Halt. Left wheel. Halt, dress, (by officers of left wing, which respectively brings them in the new a- lignment.)

Vide Plate 2. Fig. 11.

11th MOVEMENT.

*Countermarch by Companies on the
centre.*

THE BATTALION WILL COUNTERMARCH BY COMPANIES ON ITS CENTRE.

At this caution, the commanding officer announces on what fraction of the line the countermarch is to be made, (here the right centre division) and the officer instantly gives No. 4, *on your Centre, to the Right Half Wheel*, or if so ordered, *countermarches* on his own ground, and steadies it, facing to his former rear.

RIGHT WING.—RIGHT ABOUT FACE.

The right wing goes to the right about.

COMPANIES. RIGHT WHEEL.

Officers place themselves, as usual, one pace in front of their divisions.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole, except the company to be formed on, wheel by divisions to the right. Platoon officers are now on their inner flank.

MARCH.

The companies march steadily along the front and rear of the posted company; right wing in front; left wing in rear of it. The instant No. 3, reaches the right of the posted company No. 4,—the officer gives *Halt, Right Wheel—Halt Front, Dress*; and quickly dresses it from his point of appui, the right of the first company, on the given point of formation—No. 2, 1, and grenadiers do the same.

As soon as the officer of No. 5, reaches the left of the posted division; he orders *Halt, Right Wheel, Halt Dress up*,—and rapidly steadies his company on the distant point, from the left

of No. 4.—Each division, from 5 to light company, comes up into the alignment in the same manner; and each captain resumes his place in line, by the rear, the moment his division is dressed.

The colors will countermarch, with the right centre company and form on its left.

REMARKS.

It is perhaps superfluous to remark that in every point of view, whenever the ground will admit, this mode of countermarching by divisions, or even subdivisions, is infinitely preferable to the countermarch by files.

No. 12.

The open Column, advancing right in front, wheels to the right, on a halted pivot, into a new alignment, and marches on it.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
THE COLUMN WILL WHEEL TO THE RIGHT.....	Grenadiers.
		<i>Halt, Right wheel.</i>
		<i>Halt, dress.</i>
		<i>March.</i>
		(No. 1, to Light Company do the same)
	HALT.	
LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, dress.</i>

Vide Plate 2. Fig. 12.

12th MOVEMENT.

The Column advancing right in front, wheels to the right.

THE COLUMN WILL WHEEL TO THE RIGHT.

As soon as the captain of grenadiers arrives at the distance of his company from the point of entry, on which he has accurately directed his march, he gives *Halt, Right Wheel. Halt Dress—March*—each company does the same successively:—and if the whole are accurate, the *march* of the, preceding, and *halt, right wheel* of the rear company, will instantly succeed each other, and the distances be most minutely correct.

HALT.

LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

The companies wheel up and are smartly dressed; officers resume their places in line, and give *Eyes Front*.

H

No. 13.

CHANGES OF POSITION,
 OF THE BATTALION FROM LINE, BY MOVE-
 MENTS OF THE OPEN COLUMN,
 ON A FIXT POINT.

The Battalion changes position to the front, on the right halted Platoon, by throwing forward the whole left, and by the filing of Platoons.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
GRENADIERS STAND FAST.		
DIVISIONS ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH..... LEFT, FACE.	Halt, Dress.
FILE INTO OPEN COLUMN IN REAR OF GRENADIERS.....	Q. MARCH.....	Halt, front—Dress.

Vide Plate 3. Fig. 13.

NOTE.

" The right flank is the first point on which the change is made, and is in the intersection of both lines, the commander immediately *ad libitum* places another point 20 or 30 paces beyond that flank, these two determine the direction of the new line and face to it. The right platoon is wheeled forward to the right and placed in that direction, and is then immediately wheeled backwards on the left, till it stands with its pivot perpendicular to that direction, and on which its officer posts himself."—
Sec. 120.

13th MOVEMENT.

The left thrown up.

GRENADIERS, STAND FAST, REMAINING DIVISIONS ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

At this caution officers place themselves, as usual, in front of their respective divisions.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole wheel back,—except the grenadiers, who are accurately placed on, and perpendicular to, the intended alignment, according to the preceding NOTE.

LEFT FACE.

Every company, with the exception of the posted company, (which receives a caution to stand fast,) faces as directed; officers are at the head of their respective divisions, ready to lead them into column.

QUICK MARCH.

The officers lead their companies, taking care when they arrive within ten or fifteen paces of the column to march *perpendicularly* each upon his covering serjeant, who has run out when twenty or thirty paces of the new line, and placed himself upon it at the proper distance of his platoon, facing to the head of the column, and covering accurately in the line of pivots.

A mounted officer from the head of the column, attends to the accurate covering of the serjeants, and quickly lines them in the precise direction. The officers leading thus accurately on the posted coverers; each gives the word, *Halt Front, Dress*, the instant he has brought his leading file upon his serjeant, fronting him during the dressing. As soon as the men are steady, officers take place of their covering serjeants, who as usual return to the rear.

LEFT.WHEEL INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole wheel up, and if the serjeants have been accurate in taking their ground, no false distances will occur, and no after dressing will be necessary.

No. 14.

The Battalion changes position to the rear on the right halted Platoon, by throwing back the whole left, and by the filing of Platoons.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caption.	Words of Command.	
GRENADIERS STAND FAST.		
DIVISIONS ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.	Q. MARCH. RIGHT, FACE.	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
FILE INTO OPEN COLUMN IN REAR OF GRENADIERS.	Q. MARCH.	<i>Halt front, dress.</i>
LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.	Q. MARCH.	<i>Halt, dress.</i>

Vide Plate 3. Fig. 14.

14th MOVEMENT.

The whole left thrown back.

GRENADIERS, STAND FAST; REMAINING DIVISIONS ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

At this caution the officers step out and place themselves in front of their companies.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole, except the grenadiers, wheel back,—officers take post on the left,—companies are quickly dressed.

RIGHT FACE.

The companies face; captains shift by the rear to head their respective divisions: the grenadiers having received a caution, remain steady.

FILE INTO OPEN COLUMN IN REAR OF GRENA-
DIERS.

QUICK MARCH.

The companies file quick as in the preceding movement. Serjeants run out to mark their ground.—When the officers come up to their coverers, each halts in his own person,

facing the serjeant, and allowing the division to proceed; the instant the rear file comes up to the coverer, each officer gives the word *Halt Front, Dress*, and takes place of the coverer who falls to the rear.

In these movements the colors file independently between the centre companies and take their prescribed post in open column.

LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole wheel up,—the dressing is quickly given—and every individual is steady.

REMARKS.

These movements are extremely simple and particularly well calculated for service: for although the echellon march might be substituted, yet the filing of divisions in quick time is performed with more celerity, and upon the whole with more precision. However, on certain occasions, when an attack may be expected before the movement is complete, &c. the echellon formation may be very properly applied, as it can at any moment make front to resist the enemy. If it should be required to bring up, or throw back the whole right, the same operation would take place, substituting *right* for *left*, and *left* for *right*; and posting the light company instead of the grenadiers.

No. 15.

The Battalion changes position, on a central halted platoon, by the filing of Platoons; the right thrown forward, and the left backward.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution	Words of Command	
RIGHT CENTRE COMPANY STAND FAST. DIVISIONS ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH..... RIGHT, FACE.	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
FILE INTO OPEN COLUMN ON THE RIGHT CENTRE COMPANY.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, front, dress.</i>
RIGHT AND LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, dress.</i>

Vide Plate 3. Fig. 15.

NOTE.

“ One flank of the central platoon is considered as the point of intersection, another point, taken ad libitum, determines the direction of the new line. The given platoon is first wheeled into it; and then wheeled back till it stands perpendicular to it; and the covering sergeants from each of the adjoining platoons runs out and marks where their future pivots are to be placed.”

RIGHT CENTRE COMPANY STANDS FAST, REMAINING COMPANIES ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

Officers of the other divisions place themselves in front of their respective companies, the captain of the posted company is on his left flank.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole, excepting the posted division, wheel back. Right wing on the right; left wing on the left.

RIGHT FACE.

All the companies face to the right—the captains of the left shift to reverse flank ready to lead—captains of the right wing, being already on their leading flank, remain steady, merely heading their divisions.—The colors remain fixt in rear of the posted company.

FILE INTO OPEN COLUMN ON THE RIGHT CENTRE COMPANY.

QUICK MARCH.

Officers accurately lead their divisions, into column: Right wing companies facing the first division, left wing companies in rear of it. Coverers will of course run out as usual to mark the ground, and the officer of No. 3, will be careful to keep a double distance for his own and the first company to wheel into. Officers order *Halt, Front—Dress* as each respectively comes into column—captains of the right wing are on their right (as their left is in front)—captains of the left wing return to their left (their right being in front.)

RIGHT AND LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

The divisions wheel up; the right wing to the right—left wing to the left, together with the posted division; and the line is complete—"If the right is to be thrown back, and the left forward, the only alteration from the above is that the platoons would FACE TO THEIR LEFT, and file from their left instead of their right."—Sec. 122.

No. 16.

The Battalion changes to a distant position, either to its front or rear, by the filing of all its Platoons, parallel or oblique to the line it quits.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
COMPANIES, ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH.	<i>Halt, front, dress.</i>
	LEFT FACE.	
COLUMN WILL FILE TO THE FRONT. ..	Q. MARCH.	
	HALT FRONT.	<i>Dress.</i>
LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.	Q. MARCH.	<i>Halt, dress.</i>

Vide Plate 3. Fig. 16.

16th MOVEMENT.

Change of Position.

COMPANIES ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

QUICK MARCH.

The battalion breaks into open column, right in front; *Halt Dress* is smartly given; and the divisions are quickly steadied.


LEFT FACE.

The captains being on the left, head their companies, ready to lead.

COLUMN WILL FILE TO THE FRONT.

QUICK MARCH.

Officers, leading divisions, are now particularly attentive to the two great objects required



of them in this movement, viz. their due lining, and preservation of wheeling distance, from the right.—The grenadiers, having a point to march upon, will consequently give the required direction; and when the heads of companies are within twenty paces of the new alignment, the serjeants will run out, and mark the pivot points for their divisions—officers will lead directly upon them, and the instant they come up, the commanding officer will order,

HALT FRONT.

If the march has been accurate, and officers have maintained their exact position, every company will be in a situation to halt front together. The colors file in their own perpendicular, and will halt front in rear of the right centre company.

LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

No dressing can be required if the serjeants have justly taken up their ground, under the direction of a mounted officer from the head



of column. The whole wheel up without a moment's unnecessary delay, and the formation is perfect.

This movement is preferable to the march in line on many occasions, especially if the ground is broken or embarrassed.

REMARKS.

If the position required, instead of being parallel, is an oblique one, the commanding officer would caution the battalion accordingly, and give the leader of No. 1 company, an object to march upon; and by personally regulating the head of the grenadiers during the filing, and lining it with No. 1, the leaders of other divisions will easily see the required alignment, and gradually conform to it.

In this manner the commander, who is himself with, and conducts the two leading platoons, moves them in the direction that best answers his views, and easily takes up any position, and to any front that is necessary. As circumstances change his intentions, he may at every instant vary, and direct them upon new points of march, the rear of the column always conforming (*without the necessity of*

sending particular orders) to whatever alterations of direction the head may take, and the commander conducting that head so as to enable the rear to comply with its movements without hurry.

As the lines of march in filing will seldom be perpendicular to the new line, the leaders of platoons will take care that *their last twelve or fifteen paces, in approaching their serjeants, shall be made IN A DIRECTION PERPENDICULAR TO THE NEW LINE*, so that their platoons may *Halt, Front* justly without any necessity of shifting their rear files.

During the transition from one position to another, the wheeling distances should be nearly preserved, in case it should be necessary during the execution to halt front and wheel into line: but at any rate great care should be taken that they are correct, just before entering the new line.

No. 17.

The Battalion changes position by breaking into open column --- marches up perpendicular to the new line, and to the point where its head is to rest, and forms in the new position by the eventail movement.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
COMPANIES, ON THE LEFT BACK WARDS, WHEEL...	Q. MARCH.....	Halt, dress.
	MARCH.	
	LEFT OBLIQUE.	Grenadiers, — step short.
	HALT.	Vol. 1, Forward. Step short — (and successively to Light Company inclusive.)

Vide Plate 3. Fig. 17.

17th MOVEMENT.

Eventail Movement, right in front.

COMPANIES ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

Q. MARCH.

The battalion breaks into open column to either flank, (here the right) and the divisions are correctly dressed.

MARCH.

The column steps off in ordinary time ; and when the leading division is at least the length of the battalion column from the new alignment, the commanding officer orders

LEFT OBLIQUE.

At this command captains smartly shift by the rear to the right of their divisions. The grenadier officer, having received a previous caution, gives *Grenadiers, Step short ; and Eyes*

right. He now proceeds steadily on the first point de vue at the half step; the other companies oblique in *ordinary time* as directed, keeping their bodies square to the front, and dressing by the right where officers now are, and whence they have timely ordered *Eyes right.* As each division opens the left flank of the preceding one, the captain gives *Forward*, and when he reaches the moveable line, *Step short*, dressing by his right or grenadiers, until the colors come into the alignment when they become the leading point, and the line dresses by the centre. When the commanding officer perceives that the light company is up, and that the whole is marching with required precision at the half step, he immediately orders,

HALT.

REMARKS.

During the oblique the colors proceed on the left of No. 4, taking up the alignment with that company: and altho' it is not explicitly enjoined by the Regulations, which indeed are silent on that head, yet it follows of course that at the word **LEFT OBLIQUE**, leading officers of companies should instantly shift to the right, not merely that they may be able

to direct the oblique, but to conduct accurately the degree of obliquity, and time the respective *forward* of their platoons, which they could not possibly effect, if they continued on the left flank; for then in fact the covering serjeant would become the directing officer.—Besides, by thus shifting to the right, each officer enters the alignment in his proper place.

If officers pay strict attention to their obliquing, each will bring his company into the moveable line without the necessity of a considerable *forward* march.

“ This movement is performed on the march, and must
 “ be begun at a distance behind the line, proportioned to
 “ the body which is to oblique and form. It may be ap-
 “ plied to one battalion, but hardly to a more consider-
 “ able body, which would find great difficulty in the
 “ execution. It gives a gradual increase of front dur-
 “ ing a progressive movement. With justness it can
 “ be made on a front division only, not on a central or
 “ rear one. In proportion as the leading platoon shor-
 “ tens its step, will the one behind it, and successively each
 “ other, come up into line with it. As soon as the colors
 “ of the battalion come up they become the leading point.

“ Although it is an operation of more difficulty, yet if
 “ the leading division continues the ordinary, and the obliqu-
 “ ing ones take the quick step, till they successively are up
 “ with it, a battalion column which is placed behind the
 “ flank of a line, may in this manner, during the march, and
 “ when near to an enemy, gradually lengthen out that
 “ line.”—Dundas, Sec. 129.

No. 18.

The Battalion Column, right in front, is suddenly obliged to form to the right flank.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
RIGHT WHEEL INTO LINE.	Q. MARCH.....	Halt, dress.

Vide Plate 4. Fig. 18.

18th MOVEMENT.

Column right in front, forms to the right flank.

COMPANIES RIGHT WHEEL INTO LINE

At this caution officers take post in front of their companies as usual.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole wheel up to the right, or *reverse* flank; officers take post on their present right, whence the dressing is quickly made, and the divisions immediately fire if necessary; or come to the charge.

(2d Mode.)

The column, marching steadily right in front, is required to make front to its *right flank*.

FORM LINE TO THE RIGHT FLANK.

At this caution, the captain of the leading company, instantly gives *Grenadiers, Halt right wheel,—Halt dress,—*and, from his right squares smartly his division on the given point of formation, and gives *Eyes front*. Officers of the other companies, on the above caution, shift to their *right* by the rear, and as they come to the left of the formed division, successively from grenadiers to light company, each gives, *Halt right wheel,—Halt dress—Eyes front,* and takes his post in line.

The first of the above modes, though irregular, is sanctioned by authority, and is excellently calculated to oppose a sudden attack—It is evidently the shortest practicable mode of making front to the right flank; and tho' the divisions are thereby *inverted*, this must be regarded as an object of minor consideration, as by such rapid formation, the unexpected danger may be best averted.

To re-form column, the companies may wheel back on their right.

The second mode of making front to the right, or reverse flank, is more regular; but it requires more time, and the line is thrown to the left; yet it may be frequently necessary; for instance, when the column, right in front, arrives at the point where its head is to rest; as when the direction of its march is nearly in the prolongation of the new line; which is moreover the case when it arrives on the flank of a line already formed, and is required to lengthen out that line.

In lieu of the first of these formations, on sudden attacks, the column has been occasionally *left wheeled into line*; and instantly *faced about*, thus without inversion opposing the rear rank to the enemy. It does not appear that this mode holds out any advantage whatever over the prescribed method; and it can by no means be entitled to a preference, even if it were left to the discretion of officers.

The open column, may form in line on its front, rear, on any central division, by the march in *echelon*. The open column may form close column on any division, and *deploy* on any company; or, by the previous *counter-*

march of companies, front may be quickly made to the rear direct, or in any degree of obliquity that circumstances may require.

CLOSE COLUMN.

“ The battalion close column is formed from
 “ the column of march, or from line. From
 “ the column of march it is generally formed
 “ for the purpose of assembly, or deploying
 “ into line. From line it is formed in order
 “ quickly, and in force, to pass a defile or
 “ bridge, to make an attack in certain con-
 “ fined situations, where circumstances make
 “ it eligible to oppose in ground, where its
 “ flanks are not protected, a threatened charge
 “ of cavalry : to facilitate movements to the
 “ front, flanks, or rear, from which afterwards
 “ any other distances may be taken, or the
 “ line may be formed in the most expeditious
 “ manner.

“ The close column will generally be com-
 “ posed of companies for the purpose of move-

ment;—but when it is halted, and is to deploy into line, it will then stand two companies in front, and five in depth.

“The same general circumstances apply to the close column as to the open column—
 “When the close column is formed, rear ranks are one foot asunder, divisions are one pace asunder;—officers and serjeants are on the pivot flanks of their companies—colors and supernumerary officers and serjeants are on the flanks, not the pivot ones; music, drummers, pioneers, are ordered into the rear of the column; artillery is either in the front or on the reverse flank of the column when in march.

“The commanding officer alone gives orders to the close column for its march, halt, and commencement of formation.

“The battalion close column may be formed from line; in front or rear of either flank companies; or in the front and rear of any central company.

“If the column is to stand faced as the line is, the battalion will face inwards, or to

“ the directing company, each other company
 “ will disengage its head; march; and place
 “ itself as ordered, before, or behind that com-
 “ pany.

“ If the column is to stand faced to the rear
 “ of the line, then the directing company will
 “ countermarch on its own ground, the batta-
 “ lion will face outwards, or from the directing
 “ company, each other company will disen-
 “ gage its head, and move in file towards its
 “ place in the close column, by this means ac-
 “ complishing a countermarch of the whole,
 “ and the column standing fronted to its
 “ former rear.”—Dundas, Sec. 136.

REMARKS.

All formations of close column by the ployment of divi-
 sions are simple and easy.—A reference to the Author's
 Nineteen Movements lately published, will give the military
 reader a just, full, and perfect idea of the method, and na-
 ture of this formation as enjoined by the Regulations: it is
 not therefore necessary to enlarge further on the subject.



No. 19.

CLOSE COLUMN.

*The close Column, right in front,
marches to a flank.*

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
THE COLUMN WILL MARCH TO THE RIGHT FLANK.	Right, FACE.	
	Q. MARCH.....	
	HALT, FRONT.	Dress.

Vide Plate 4. Fig. 19.

19th MOVEMENT.

*The close Column, right in front,
takes ground to a flank.*

THE COLUMN WILL MARCH TO THE RIGHT
FLANK.

At this caution leading officers and covering
serjeants move quickly, by the rear, to the right,
and supernumeraries and colors move to the
left.

RIGHT FACE.

The whole face accurately; the captains are
at the heads of files, with the covering serjeants
on their right, ready to lead.

QUICK MARCH.

Points having been ascertained for the guidance of the grenadier officer, he marches steadily upon them; guarding against a moving; vacillating direction, which would throw the whole column into disorder: the other captains, preserving their precise situation, dress and move by him; being very attentive not to close in or open out from the company on their left.

HALT FRONT.

The whole front; officers and the serjeants return to the pivot flank; supernumeraries and colors to the reverse flank. If the filing has been made with that accuracy which His Majesty's Regulations require, and without which no battalion can be esteemed well drilled, at the HALT FRONT, every file, will front on its proper ground; and no closing in, or easing off, will be necessary; such shuffling indeed is highly unmilitary;—nothing looks so unsoldier-like;—and therefore no trouble should be spared to guard against it.

No. 20.

The close Column marches to the
front.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDBY OF OFFICERS OF COM- PANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
COLUMN WILL MARCH TO THE FRONT.....	MARCH.	
	OR, Q. MARCH.	
	HALT.....	Drass.

Vide Plate 4, Fig. 201 for

20th MOVEMENT.

Column marches to the front.

THE COLUMN WILL MARCH TO THE FRONT.

Q. MARCH.

At this command the column, dressing by the pivot, steps off at a quick step. The space between divisions is accurately observed; no waving is perceptible; and every firelock is carried steadily.

HALT.

The column halts, and no individual moves.

If a considerable advance to the front be required of the close column, the ranks must be loosened; for which purpose the commanding officer gives the caution **LOOSEN RANKS**, on which all the divisions, except the leading

one, will at once *step short*, and each successively from No. 1 to light company, receive from its captain *Step out*, when his ranks are one pace asunder.

In this case the word **HALT**, from the commanding officer would be partial; the grenadiers only would halt; the others would move on and halt each by word of command from its own officer, as it arrived on its proper ground, in close column.

REMARKS.

We have here retained the word *step out*, as marked in General Dundas; this word is applied to a body moving in ordinary, or quick time.

M

Handwritten notes at bottom of page:
 In the 1st movement...
 Captain...
 S 100-
 by...

No. 21.

A close Column, right in front, halted, takes a new direction to the right.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
THE COLUMN WILL CHANGE ITS DIRECTION TO THE RIGHT.		
GRENADIERS FOUR PACES TO THE RIGHT WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH.....	Grenadiers—Halt, dress.
REMAINING DIVISIONS.....	LEFT, FACE. Q. MARCH.....	Halt, front. Dress.

Vide Plate 4. Fig. 21.

2¹st MOVEMENT.

*The Column changes its direction
to the right.*

GRENADIERS FOUR PACES TO THE RIGHT
WHEEL.

The commanding officer gives the leading company such direction as he deems necessary, here the one-eighth of the circle to the right is required: and the captain having dressed and squared his division accordingly, an advanced and a rear point are fixt to mark the future line of pivots.

REMAINING COMPANIES.

LEFT FACE.

The companies, except the grenadiers, face; officers are at the head to lead.

QUICK MARCH.

Each company, as it arrives on the new line of pivots, which has been smartly marked by the covering serjeants, (who, in this movement are permitted to give points,) receives *Halt Front—Dress*. A mounted officer, from the advanced camp color attends to the coverers as they take their ground.

If the direction is to the *left*, the grenadiers would wheel to that hand, but as, in this case, covering serjeants cannot mark the line of pivots, that duty devolves on platoon officers; and in this operation they will be materially aided by an intelligent mounted officer:—the instant the rear file of each company comes into column, the officer from that point orders *Halt Front—Dress*: If the field officer has been prompt, and officers alert, the pivots will cover, and the unseemly necessity of shifting from left to right, and again from right to left, will be entirely avoided.

REMARKS.

Should it be necessary to give a small change of direction to the close column on the march, the head is by the Regulations directed to step short, and in a kind of *moveable wheel*, gradually effect such change, while all the other divisions by advancing a shoulder, and inclining a little to the wheeling flank, successively conform to each other, and to the leading division;—so that at the word *forward*, the whole may step out as before.

No. 22.

The close Column deploys on an oblique line advanced.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
GRENADIERS, — PACES TO THE RIGHT WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Grenadiers. Ha't, dress.</i>
THE LINE WILL FORM ON THE GRENADIERS.		
REMAINING COM- PANIES.. ...	LEFT, FACE. Q. MARCH.	<i>No. 1, Halt, front — Dress. March. Halt, dress. (Each Company suc- cessively does the same.)</i>

Vide Plate 4. Fig. 22.

22d MOVEMENT.

The close Column deploys on an oblique line advanced.

The grenadier company is wheeled up by the commanding officer into the new direction, on its reverse flank; and points in prolongation of that line are quickly fixt.

THE LINE WILL FORM ON THE GRENADIERS.—
REMAINING COMPANIES,

LEFT FACE.

The whole, except the grenadiers, face to the left or pivot flank; captains head their front rank as usual, turning their bodies so as to take a direction *parallel* to the one required.

QUICK MARCH.

The divisions step out, and officers are extremely careful not to close one each other; the

rear files gradually conform to the direction taken by the leaders; and when each captain arrives on the left flank of the preceding company, he stops in his own person, and gives *Halt Front—Dress*, the instant his rear file comes up; then taking the right of his company he orders *March*, and steadies the division in the alignment.

There is no serious difficulty in this movement; but the utmost attention is necessary to ensure precision; officers must be particular in the *halt front* of their divisions, which ought then, at latest, to be moving perfectly parallel to the new alignment.

NOTE,

If the deployment is to be made on an oblique line *retired*, the grenadiers would *move a few paces to the front*, then be wheeled up to the left in the direction required, and points of formation immediately thrown out. The remaining divisions would face to *the left*, and move as soon as possible in the true direction parallel to, and behind the line; and officers would be attentive to march up their respective companies *perfectly square* into the new alignment.



No. 23.

ECHELLON.

A Battalion from Line, wheels forward by companies, to either flank, into Echelon, and halts.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command	
COMPANIES, FOUR PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
	MARCH.	
	HALT.	
WHEEL BACK INTO LINE.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, dress.</i>

Vide Plate 5. Fig. 23.

23d MOVEMENT.

ECHELLON.

A Battalion from Line wheels forward by companies, to either flank, (here the left) into Echellon, and halts.

COMPANIES FOUR PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL.

At this caution platoon officers shift by the rear to the left; coverers run out and accurately place themselves before the eighth file from the standing flank, and quickly take the prescribed number of wheeling paces on the circumference of the circle, dressing with the pivot man, who has made his half face, to the left. A mounted officer from the covering serjeant

of the light company will now see that all the coverers are in a line.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole wheel up to the left, and divisions receive *Halt Dress* from their respective captains, who then give the word *Front*, (not eyes front) for the eyes are glanced in all echellons, and columns, to the officer; but at the word front the *heads only* are brought full to the front; covering serjeants are now on the right of their respective companies; the colors wheel up with the left centre division, taking post, as usual, on its right flank.

"In this situation the flanks wheeled to, remain in exact line, and also the wheeling flanks, if the divisions are of equal strength: but in proportion to the degree of wheel which has been made, will the perpendicular raised from the standing flank of each division cut within the division preceding it, till by the complete wheel of the quarter circle, all such perpendiculars coincide, and beyond that, new echellon situations begin to the rear."—Dundas, page 201.

The companies now being parallel to each other, captains on the pivot or flank wheeled to, the commanding officer gives the word,

MARCH.

During this advance the officer of the light company marches steadily on the given point—all the others conform implicitly to the rules laid down in the Regulations for the echelon march: this is an operation which requires the unremitting attention of officers and men: officers are careful to preserve each his proper distance from the preceding pivot, and his oblique covering in the line of pivots, which must continue parallel to the original line.

HALT.

At this word every individual halts firmly together.

WHEEL BACK INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

The divisions wheel back on their left, the same number of paces they had before wheeled.

up; officers *Halt dress*, and *Eyes front*, (which *in line* must always be given, when eyes and heads are turned directly to the front,) and take their proper place in battalion: covering sergeants go to the rear; colors wheel back with the left centre division.

If an oblique line *forward* was necessary, the light company would remain posted, or be wheeled up, or back, so as to place it in the required oblique position. But, whatever position is given to the light company, it must be remembered as an invariable rule, founded on fixed principles that the other companies must stand perpendicular to the lines by which they march to their points of formation; which lines change according to the position given to the leading company; for instance, in the above echelon movement all the companies have wheeled up *four* paces to the left, if then the light company is to remain in that oblique position, all the others must wheel back one-half of the number of paces they originally wheeled up, which will place them in the perpendicular direction, required by the above maxim. If the light company should be wheeled back two paces on its left, in order to place it in the oblique posi-

on required for the intended alignment, then all the other divisions would wheel back (in addition to the one-half of what they originally wheeled forward) half the number of paces which the light company has now wheeled back. But in order to render this principle more clear to young officers, let it be supposed that a battalion in line is to take an oblique position by the echellon movement, and that the light company is the division to be formed on.

If the light company is wheeled up to the left, 2 paces, which is the alignment required, all the other divisions wheel up 1 pace.

If the light company wheels up 4 paces, all the other divisions wheel up 2 paces.

If the light company wheels up 6 paces, all the other divisions wheel up 3 paces, &c. &c.

So also in column, the same principle invariably regulates the position of the echellon.

Suppose the right to be in front;

If the grenadiers stand fast; the remaining divisions must wheel back 4 paces on their right.

If the grenadiers wheel back four paces on their right, the other divisions wheel back six paces—In short on all occasions it is indispensibly required that the companies be placed in the perpendicular direction which they are to pursue.

All these specified wheelings are indispensibly necessary to make the divisions stand perpendicular to the lines by which they march to their points of formation.

“The exact formation in this oblique line depends totally on the companies having wheeled (only) one-half of the angle which the new position makes with the old one; for should they at first wheel the whole of that angle, they would be then marching parallel to that line, and arrive in it doubled behind each other; whereas by having the other half of the wheel to complete, when they come near to the new position, each moves in a perpendicular direction, and disengages the ground required by the succeeding one to form upon.”
—Dundas, page 209.

No. 24.

Open Column, right in front, wheels back into Echelon to form line on the head company, which remains square to the column.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
GRENADIERS STAND FAST.		
REMAINING DIVISIONS FOUR PACES ON THE RIGHT BACKWARDS WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH.....	Halt, dress.
FORM LINE ON THE GRENADIERS.....	MARCH.....	No. 1, Left shoulders forward. Halt. Dress up,—(and by all the other divisions in succession.)

Vide Plate 5. Fig. 24.

24th MOVEMENT.

Open Column right in front, wheels back into echellon to form line on the head company, which remains square to the column.

GRENADIERS STAND FAST, REMAINING DIVISIONS FOUR PACES ON THE RIGHT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

The grenadier officer, at this caution, as well as the commanding officers of the other divisions shift to the right flank; each covering serjeant runs out and places himself with his back to the eighth file in the rear, (invariably front to the standing flank) and on the circumference of the circle, takes his four wheeling paces to the rear, faces about, and smartly dresses with the pivot man on the right, who brings up his right shoulder, so as to make a

half face to the left ; all the coverers must now be precisely in a line.

QUICK MARCH.

Each company, except the head company, wheels back; eyes are turned *outwards*, and the light touch to *the right* is carefully preserved: the instant the eighth file comes upon the posted coverer, he gives a low caution to halt, (merely for the convenience of his officer) who immediately orders *Halt Dress*, and when dressed, *Front*, when heads are replaced square to the front.

FORM LINE ON THE GRENADIERS.

MARCH.

Points of formation having been prepared in the alignment of the grenadiers, the echelon, under the usual attentions, proceeds with the utmost accuracy;—officers keep distance, covering, &c. &c. each from the officer of the division on his right; and above all things it is expedient to maintain the parallelism. When No. 1 arrives within se-

ven or eight paces from the left of the grenadiers, the officer gives *Left shoulders forward*; the pivot man at this command keeps on his regular pace, but gradually brings up his left shoulder; the company without hurry conforms to the direction given by the pivot, and the reverse flank steps out according to the strength of the division. When by this *shoulder forward* the company comes within three or four paces of the alignment, it ought then, *at latest*, to be parallel with it; the officer briskly steps forward and from the second file of the left flank of the grenadiers, gives *Halt dress up*, the instant his division reaches the line: the same operation is performed by all the other companies in succession, and the line is complete. — The colors march up with the right centre company and form into the alignment with it.

No. 25.

Column right in front, forms line on the rear company, facing to the front, by the march in echelon.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caption.	Words of Command.	
LIGHT COMPANY, STAND FAST.		
REMAINING DIVISIONS.....	RIGHT ABOUT, FACE.	
FOUR PACES ON THE RIGHT BACK- WARDS WHEEL....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, Dress.</i>
FORM LINE ON THE LIGHT COMPANY..	MARCH.....	No. 8. <i>Left shoulders forward. Halt, front. Dress back—(and successively by all the other divisions.)</i>

Vide Plate 5. Fig. 25.

25th MOVEMENT.

Column right in front forms line on the rear company of the column, facing to the front, by the march in echelon.

LIGHT COMPANY STAND FAST, REMAINING DIVISIONS,

RIGHT ABOUT, FACE.

The whole, except the light company, face to the right about; platoon officers take place of their serjeants, so as to be in the present front rank, but without shifting their pivot.

FOUR PACES ON THE RIGHT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

The serjeants, as prescribed above, take the four paces to the rear from the right file, and

face about; officers dress their pivot man with the coverer.

QUICK MARCH.

Except the light company, the whole wheel back on their present right;—the coverer giving the low caution to halt, officers *Halt Dress*, and the echelon is ready for the march, which should not be unnecessarily delayed one instant.

FORM LINE ON THE LIGHT COMPANY.

MARCH.

The light company remains steady, with its captain on the right: *Left shoulders forward. Halt front, dress back*, is given successively from No. 8 to grenadiers; the colors march up with the left centre company, and halt front into the new alignment with it.

REMARKS.

The column being right in front, instead of going to the right about and wheeling back on the right, the companies might wheel up four paces to the left, then face about.

No. 26.

Column right in front forms line on the light company, facing to the rear.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Cautions.	Words of Command.	
COUNTERMARCH BY FILES.....	RIGHT, FACE. Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, front—Dress.</i>
LIGHT COMPANY STAND FAST.		
REMAINING DIVISIONS, FOUR PACES ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
FORM LINE ON THE LIGHT COMPANY.	MARCH.....	<i>No 8. Right shoulders forward. Halt. Dress up—(and successively by all the other divisions.)</i>

26th MOVEMENT.

Column right in front, forms line on the light company, facing to the rear.

COUNTERMARCH BY FILES.

RIGHT FACE.

The whole face as directed ; captains shift to the right flank, ready to lead their respective divisions ; covering serjeants step up into the place left by their officers, face about, and thus, correctly mark the future pivot.

QUICK MARCH.

Every company countermarches on its own ground to the right, and when the leading file comes up to the coverer, the word *Halt Front, Dress* is given, and the column stands in left front.

LIGHT COMPANY STAND FAST, REMAINING DIVISIONS FOUR PACES ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole, except the fixt light company, wheel back four paces on their left; to which flank, officers have shifted to lead, each, his respective division into the alignment; and with *Right shoulders forward*, *Halt dress* successively from left to right, the line is formed as directed. As soon as each captain has steadied his division from the point of appui to the point of formation, he again shifts by the rear to his right flank; colors march up with the left centre company.

If the line was to be formed on a *central company* of the column, the principles detailed for the performance of the Ninth Review Movement would be applicable.

If the battalion changes position to the front on a fixt flank company, by throwing forward the rest of the battalion, the operation would be effected on the principles laid down for the performance of the Tenth Review Movement.

If a battalion changes position to the rear, on a fixt flank company, such change would be effected on the principles already illustrated for the performance of the Fifth Review Movement.

NOTE.

It cannot be too strongly inculcated that "very great activity is required from the officer in dressing up, or dressing back, otherwise the point of appui will not be ready for the next officer who arrives and is to perform the same operation, and this will particularly happen where the change of direction is inconsiderable. In the successive dressing of divisions in this manner, officers are always to line them, so as not to obscure the distant point, but to leave it open and distinct, so that the direction of the line may run at the distance of one file from the given object of dressing."—Dundas, page 210.

No. 27.

The Battalion changes position on a central company, by advancing one wing and retiring the other.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Cautions.	Words of Command	
LEFT CENTRE COMPANY, ON YOUR CENTRE, FOUR PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL	Q MARCH	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
LEFT WING	RIGHT ABOUT, FACE.	
REMAINING DIVISIONS TWO PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL	Q. MARCH	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
FORM LINE ON NO. 5	MARCH	<i>Right shoulders forward.</i> <i>Halt.—Dress up,—(by officers of right wing)</i> <i>Right shoulders forward.</i> <i>Halt front.—Dress back —(by officers of left wing.)</i>

Vide Plate 6. Fig. 27.

27th MOVEMENT.

The Battalion changes position on a central company, by advancing one wing, and retiring the other.

Suppose the right wing is to be advanced, and the left thrown back, on the left centre division.

LEFT CENTRE COMPANY ON YOUR CENTRE FOUR PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL.

QUICK MARCH.

This company being thus accurately wheeled and dressed by its officer, who does not quit his right flank, points are immediately

thrown out on either hand for the required alignment—the colors form with this division.

LEFT WING.

RIGHT ABOUT FACE.

This wing faces about; officers without shifting their pivots step up into the leading rank.

REMAINING COMPANIES TWO PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL.

QUICK MARCH.

The divisions wheel up these two paces marked as usual by their coverers; officers are all on their inward flank of their companies, whence they *Halt Dress*.

FORM LINE ON NO. 5.

MARCH.

The echelon moves off steadily; left wing thus retiring with its rear rank in front, and eyes to the left; right wing thus advancing, front rank in front and eyes also to the left.—

As each company of the right wing, from No. 4 to grenadiers, successively comes up six or seven paces from the required alignment, *Right Shoulders Forward* is given, and *Halt Dress up*, when each is quickly but accurately dressed, on the distant point of formation, to the right; and officers shift to the right.

As the divisions, from No. 5 to light company, arrive within the prescribed distance from the line, each receives, *Right Shoulders Forward*.—*Halt Front, Dress back*, and is dressed on the point of formation to the left, officers of this wing being already on their proper flank, take place at once in line.

NOTE.

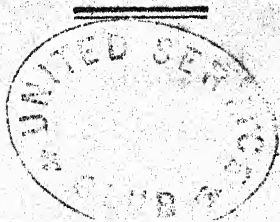
The retiring wing is here directed to go to the right about before wheeling, but as it is contrary to a very sound principle laid down in the Regulations, it might perhaps be better to make the required wheel, and then face about.—Dundas, pages 199, 201 and 230.

“ If, during the march of divisions to the front into a new direction, they should be obliged to form in line in order

“ to repulse a sudden attack of cavalry, the whole will halt ;
 “ the inward or directing flank of each will stand fast, and
 “ the outward one instantly wheels back to its succeeding
 “ one; when the enemy is repulsed, the march is resumed
 “ by each company wheeling up its outward flank to its
 “ former position, and then proceeding in the movement—
 “ during this operation the officers remain on their echel-
 “ lon flanks, from thence halt, dress them, when they
 “ wheel back into line, fire them if necessary, and from
 “ thence also wheel them again into echelon.”—Dundas,
 page 211.

In giving this quotation verbatim from the Regulations, it seems unnecessary to dwell particularly on its very great importance; the operation thereby is excellent; uniting celerity, facility, justness, and, as far as can be expected from a moving echelon, security;—it certainly prescribes the best and most simple possible mode which the supposed critical nature and pressing circumstances of the case will admit, for repelling a sudden attack of cavalry.

“ The squareness of each echelon and individual, and
 “ the equality of step during the movement, are what alone can produce the decided exactness required in these
 “ operations.”—Dundas, page 212.



No. 28.

The companies of a battalion in line, march off in echellon successively and directly to the front; and again form line, either to the front, or to the flank.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
MARCH FROM THE RIGHT, BY COMPANIES, SUCCESSIVELY TO THE FRONT, IN DIRECT ECHELLON, TEN PACES RETIRED...	MARCH.....	Grenadiers. <i>Eyes right.</i> <i>March (by No. 1 and successively by all the other divisions.)</i>
GRENADIERS.....	HALT.....	Grenadiers— <i>dress.</i> <i>Eyes front.</i>
FORM LINE ON GRENADIERS.....		No. 1. <i>Halt, dress.</i> <i>Eyes front—(ditto by all the Companies.)</i>

28th MOVEMENT.

The companies of a Battalion in line, march off in echelon successively and directly to the front, and again form line, either to the front or to the flank.

THE BATTALION WILL FORM A DIRECT ECHEL-
LON TO THE FRONT BY COMPANIES, SUCCE-
SSIVELY FROM THE RIGHT—TEN PACES RE-
TIED.

MARCH.

At this command the grenadiers step off, instantly receiving *Eyes right* from their officer, who is on his right flank, and for whose direction points are previously prepared. As soon as he has taken the tenth step (more or less, as may be ordered,) No. 1 receives *Eyes*

right, March, and proceeds at the regular pace, the officer being particularly vigilant to maintain his prescribed distance of ten paces and his perpendicular march, colors move on the left of the right centre company.

FORM LINE ON THE GRENADIERS.

At this caution the grenadier officer orders *Grenadiers, Halt Dress, Eyes front*; the other divisions, as they respectively come up into the new line, from No. 1 to light company, receive *Halt Dress*, and *Eyes front*.

But when the intention is to form in line to a flank, the whole will HALT, a serjeant from each division would take ground in the intended alignment, under the correction of a mounted officer, from the first point of formation; the other divisions would oblique to the directing hand, or face and file into column on their respective serjeants, and wheel into line as may be ordered.

These changes of position are extremely simple; and as to the particular position required, it must depend on circumstances, and the views of the commanding officer.

No. 29.

ECHELLON CHANGES

BY SUBDIVISIONS, OR SECTIONS.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
SUBDIVISIONS, TWO PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL.....	Q MARCH.	<i>Halt, dress.</i>
	MARCH.	
	HALT.	
WHEEL BACK INTO LINE.....	Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, dress.</i>

Vide Plate 6. Fig. 29.

serjeants take charge of the rear subdivisions; the colors and serjeant directors wheel up as a separate division.

MARCH.

The whole move off accurately, at a regular pace; from officers and men the most marked attention is necessary; for the awkward movement of a single subdivision would shake the whole column in its rear, and derange the march. The advanced flank must on no account be thrown too forward.

HALT.

WHEEL BACK INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

The whole wheel back their two paces; officers, who have quickly shifted by the rear to the right of their respective companies, thence give the word *Halt Dress* for the two subdivisions, and *Eyes front*.

If the battalion broke into *sections*, instead of subdivisions to the left as above, the leading ones would have an officer or serjeant from the rear on their left; and the captain and his co-

vering serjeant would be on the left of the two last. It is customary in some regiments, in this case, to have the captain on the leading section, covering serjeant on the next, and supernumerary officers or under officers with the other sections.

Should the subdivisions wheel to the right, instead of the left, the platoon officers being already on their right, would remain there to direct their leading or right subdivisions; and their covering serjeants would take the pivot flank, that is the right of the rear subdivision:—should the echelon form to the right in sections, the captain would lead the first, and the others would fall to his covering serjeant and officers or serjeants from the supernumerary rank.

REMARKS

There are various methods of changing the front of a battalion or line.—By many regiments the echelon movement is generally preferred:—this mode of changing the front however is not without disadvantages; in the field it exposes a battalion; the movement itself, notwith-

standing every aid and precaution, is sensibly destitute of solidity, appui, and support; at the same time it subjects officers to many attentions and incidents; the least body of cavalry might throw the whole into disorder, or at least considerably increase the natural difficulty of rapid re-union and formation; and the march, commonly so vacillating and inaccurate, might easily degenerate into disorder by the most trifling accidents; for it is unnecessary to observe that to be well executed, an exact relative distance must exist, the heads of divisions must dress, at the same time preserving correctly their proper distance, situation, perpendicular, and equal regular progressive alignment, &c. &c. This, on occasions of common parade, is found a most difficult operation; in the field each difficulty would possibly increase.

The methods of changing the front of a line, or its position, ought to be simple, firm, easy of performance, and so well understood, that when properly applied they be never subject in themselves (that is to say by any vicious principle, or imperfection of mechanism) to disorder.—It is by means of the column, and the column only, that a line of any extent can change its position with safety, and celerity, except when particular circumstances render the echelon movement eligible.

No. 30.

PASSAGE OF OBSTACLES,

WHEN THE BATTALION IS MARCHING IN LINE.

COMMANDING OFFICER.		COMMANDS BY OFFICERS OF COMPANIES.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
THE RIGHT CENTRE DIVISION, WILL DOUBLE BEHIND NO. 3.....		
NO. 4.....	HAET. RIGHT FACE. Q. MARCH.....	<i>Halt, front.</i> <i>2. March.</i> <i>Ordinary.</i>

Vide Plate 6. Fig. 30.

R

STED SERGE

30th MOVEMENT.

PASSAGE OF OBSTACLES, WHEN THE BATTALION IS MARCHING IN LINE.

THE RIGHT CENTRE DIVISION WILL DOUBLE
BEHIND NO. 3.

NO. 4, HALT, RIGHT FACE.

QUICK MARCH.

The impeded company, halts, faces, and marches as ordered; the line proceeds at the regular pace; and the instant the officer of the impeded division finds that he has doubled behind No. 3, he gives *Halt Front,—2. March*, and takes post on the left or outward flank (leaders of divisions are invariably next to the opening which they are to fill up)—when he comes up close to No. 3, *Ordinary*.

NOTE.

Should No. 3, now meet also with an obstacle, the commanding officer would order No. 3 and 4, HALT—RIGHT FACE, QUICK MARCH,—and these two companies would place themselves in close column behind No. 2, as above directed for No. 3 singly; so as to stand No. 2, then 3, then 4. On this principle generally all insurmountable obstacles are cleared. As the impediment is passed, No. 3 receives HALT, LEFT FACE—QUICK MARCH, its officer gives *Halt Front,—2. March*,—and places himself on the right flank; and when he comes up into the line, which is going on at the regular pace, he gives *Ordinary*. No. 4, when clear, performs the same operation.—It is merely necessary to remark on this occasion that instead of halt front, quick march, after doubling up to clear the obstacle, *Left Turn*, &c. might be applied.

“ These movements are all made on parallel and perpendicular, not oblique lines, and the progress which the formed part of the battalion is constantly making, shews that no time must be lost either in giving or executing the words of command, and that the divisions of the column must be well closed up and its movements quick, firm, but in perfect order.—The divisions of the column form successively into line, as the obstacle permits them, or again double, so as to conform to the shape of the ground which must always be filled up.—The march of the uninterrupted part of the line must be steady and exact, and openings made must be carefully preserved from the centre while it continues to direct, or from whatever point does so while the centre is impeded; the columns depend on the formed parts of the battalion to which they are attached, and are independent of each other.—When the centre is interrupted, a named company officer of

"the line will be ordered to advance six paces to regulate the whole, till the directing serjeant of the centre can again re-
 "sume his true and original line, which he by advancing
 "singly from the column will endeavour to do as soon as pos-
 "sible. Whether the battalion is advancing or retiring, the same
 "operations take place; and the columns in both cases are be-
 "hind the formed part of the line; in retiring the rear rank
 "leads."—Dundas, page 237.

But there are circumstances when the obstructed portion of the line may pass the obstacle *in file*; in which case it would face to one or both flanks, and closely follow in file, such parts of the battalion as are not broken.—But if a considerable portion of the line should be forced out, this latter method would become objectionable.—However, it is plain that the same principles which direct the doubling in column, direct the doubling by files.

"If a battalion instead of advancing in front, is suppos-
 "ed to have faced to the right about and to be retreating;
 "the positions of the divisions in column will be the same
 "as above, they performing their movements, with their
 "rear ranks in front."—Dundas, page 239.

As for the march of the battalion in line the Author begs to refer the Military Reader to his Nineteen Movements; where the extreme difficulties attending that most important movement are duly noted; merely observing that though many eminent tacticians have expatiated at great length on this confessedly momentous object, which demands the unremitting attention and intelligence of every individual, no aids will be found so satisfactory, no rules so simple, clear, and judicious, as those concisely enjoined by the BRITISH REGULATIONS.

TABLE OF REFERENCE

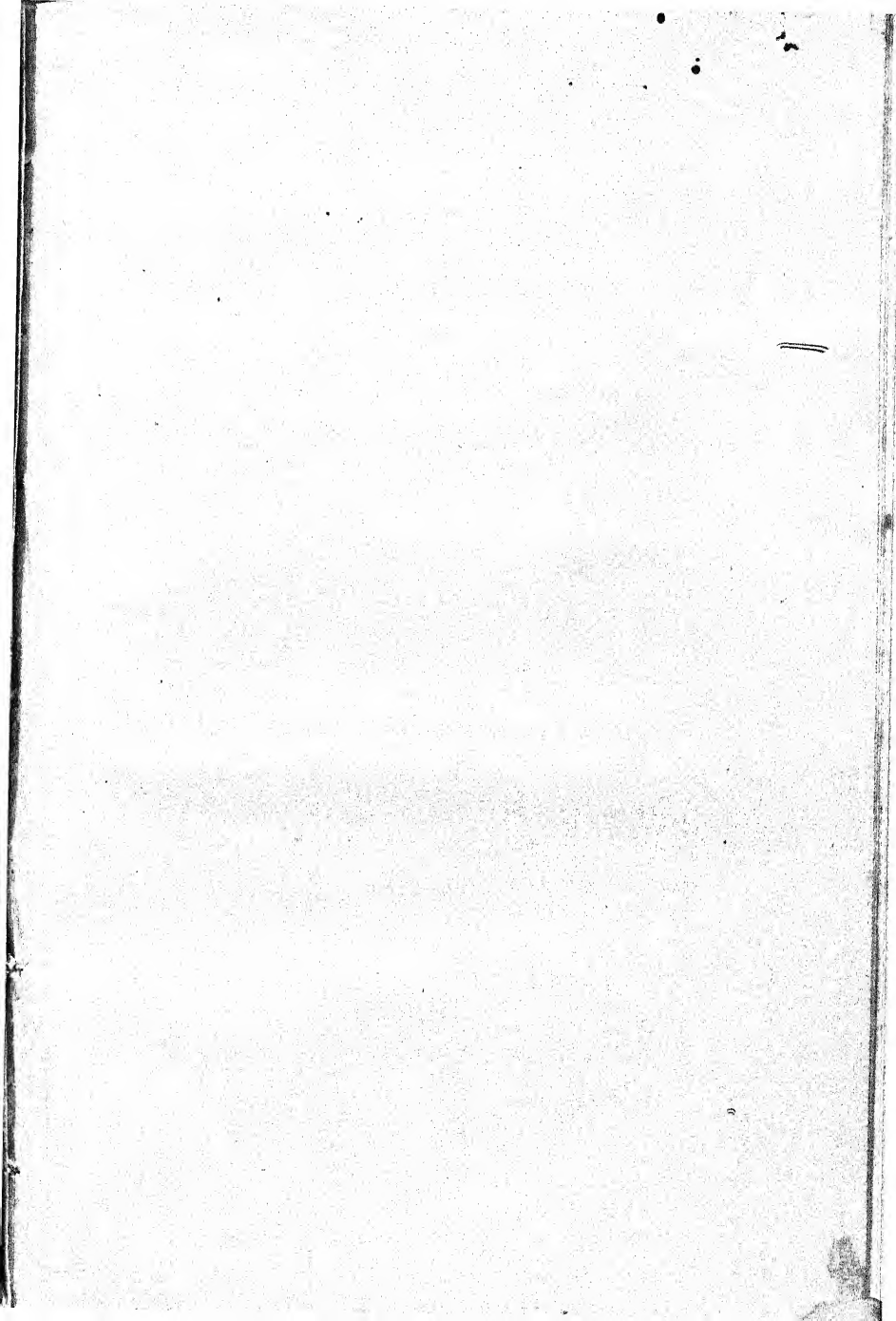
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